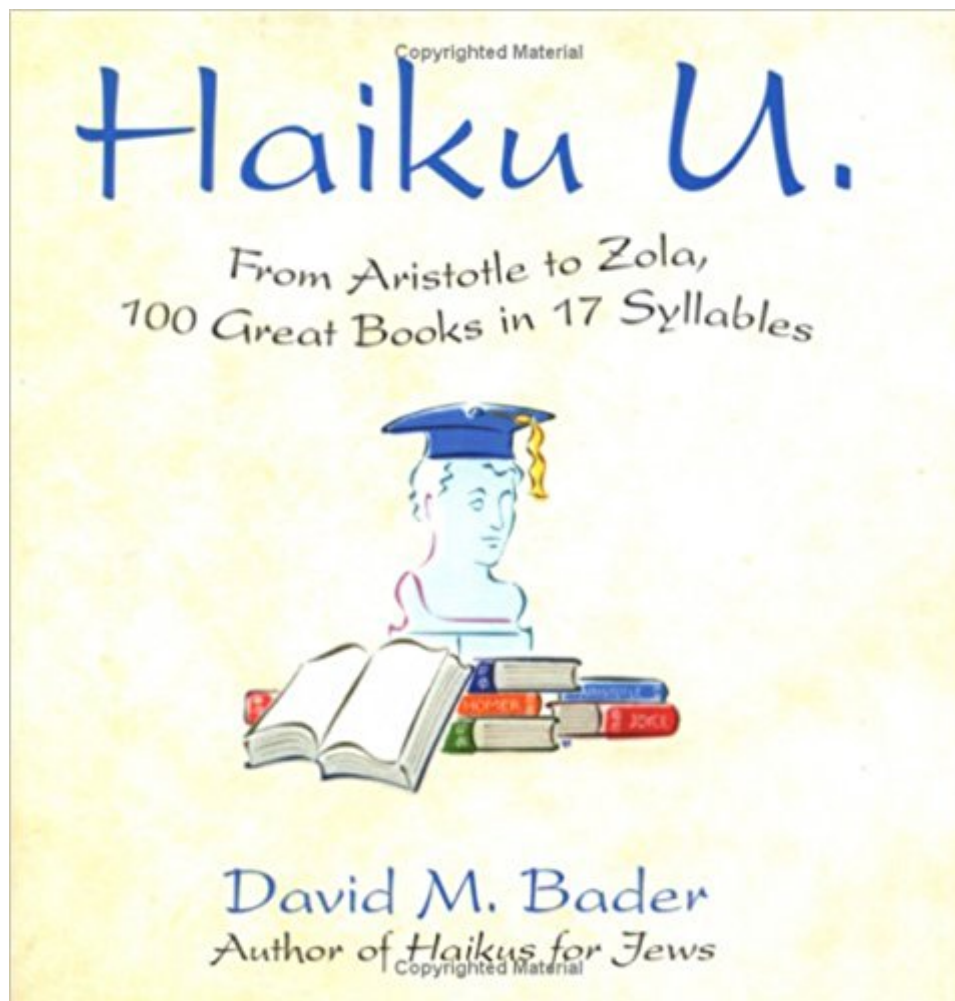




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Haiku U: From Aristotle To Zola, 100 Great Books In 17 Syllables



Synopsis

Take a hilarious crash course in literature—just three pithy lines—from a bestselling haiku humorist. Why spend weeks slogging through *The Iliad* when you could just read the haiku? From Homer to Faulkner to Lao Tzu, the Great Books are now within the reach of even the shortest attention spans. Show off your literary prowess at cocktail parties with minimal prep time, thanks to the author of the popular *Haikus for Jews*. In the sixteenth century, Zen monks in Japan developed the haiku, a poem consisting of three unrhymed lines of five, seven, and five syllables. Little did they know that their ancient art form was destined to become a handy tool for today's time-crunched Western reader! Reducing eyestrain and deforestation, Haiku U. distills dialogue and plot, capturing the essence of our favorite literary classics, seventeen syllables at a time: Marcel Proust, *Remembrance of Things Past*: Tea-soaked madeleine; a childhood recalled. I had brownies like that once. Charlotte Brontë, *Jane Eyre*: O woe! His mad wife; in the attic! Had they but lived together first. Just in time for graduation, Haiku U. gives the gift of an entire literary canon, packed into one hilarious gem.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I'm a list-lover. Show me a list of must-read books or must-see movies and I've got a pen out forthwith. So when I saw David M. Bader's selection of 100 great books, that was enough to "hook" me and I had to flip the pages. What a great idea: "Condensed into haiku, the 'great books' are now within the reach of even the shortest attention spans." It's the next best thing to a Kindle, and in the

case of some of these books, better. The selections are weighty overall, or at least the originals are; reducing them to haiku cuts their weight drastically. Allow me to share some of the delights of this little book. Bader gives us St. Augustine's TRUE CONFESSIONS: This is just to say / I screwed around. Forgive me. / I enjoyed it so. Many truly important works of philosophy are represented, such as Adam Smith's THE WEALTH OF NATIONS: Supply meets demand. / The invisible hand claps. / Capitalist Zen.... and PHENOMENOLOGY OF SPIRIT by Georg W.H. Hegel: Thesis: A whole pig. / Antithesis: Butcher shop. / Synthesis: Schnitzel.... and BEING AND NOTHINGNESS by Jean-Paul Sartre: Gentle Left Bank sun-- / bluebirds chirp their empty song. / We are all condemned. Any list of 100 Great Books must include some drama and classic fiction; this list is no exception. We have WAITING FOR GODOT by Samuel Beckett: Act I. "It's hopeless. / My boots don't fit. Where is God?" / Act II. The same thing.... and Hawthorne's THE SCARLET LETTER: Grim, gray New England-- / all adulterers receive / free monogramming. Bader shows a pithy grasp of C.G. Jung's pioneering work THE ARCHETYPES AND THE COLLECTIVE UNCONSCIOUS: A patient says he / sees the phallus of the sun. / But then, who doesn't?

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